

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 /020 R

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DRAFTED BY IO/SCT:JPTREVITHICK

APPROVED BY IO:MMCNAULL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

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FOLLOWINR REPEAT TOKYO 2303 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BANGKOK
LONDON MANILA PHNOM PENH SAIGON SEOUL TAIPEI VIENTIENE PEKING HONGKONG

GENEVA GUAM GOVGUAM DTD 21 FEB 75

QUOTE:

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: TPHY, GQ, JA, US, XC,XE

SUBJECT: WEATHER - PROJECT STORMFURY

REF: TOKYO 13794 OCT. 23, 1974

SUMMARY: GOJ HAS DELIVERED STRONGLY NEGATIVE REACTION TO
U.S. PROPOSAL FOR TRANSFER OF PROJECT STORMFURY TO WESTERN
PACIFIC AND HAS EXPRESSED HOPE THA U.S. WILL NOT INTRODUCE
RESOLUTION ON THIS MATTER AT ESCAP MEETING BEGINNING
FEB. 25. END SUMMARY.

1. EIJIRO NODA, DEPUTY GENERAL OF UN BUREAU CALLED
IN SCICOUNS TODAY TO PRESENT JAPANESE TALKING PAPER RESPONDING
TO U.S. PROPOSALS CONCERNING TRANSFER OF PROJECT STORMFURY
TO WESTERN PACIFIC. TEXT OF RESPONSE FOLLOWS;;

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"1. THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN HAS NO OBJECTION TO THE

EFFECT THAT THE TYPHOON MODIFICATION EXPERIMENT WOULD PROVIDE NEW METEOROLOGICAL DATA ON TYPHOONS AND SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTE TOWARD THE DEVELOPMENT OF METEOROLOGY AND, IN PARTICULAR, TOWARD THE EXPLICATION OF TYPHOON STRUCTURES AND ACTIVITIES.

HOWEVER JNIT HAS NOT BEEN MADE CLEAR HOW THAT RAINFALL OR THE DIRECTIONS OF TYPHOONS WILL BE AFFECTED BY SEEDING TYPHOONS. THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN, THEREFORE, HAS BEEN APPREHENSIVE WHETHER SUCH EXPERIMENT MIGHT CAUSE OTHER TYPES OF DAMAGE TO OTHER REGIONS WHICH OTHERWISE, WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED.

"2. TAKING SUCH CONCERN INTO ACCOUNT, THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN HAS BEEN ADVOCATING, SINCE THE 4TH SESSION OF THE TYPHOON COMMITTEE, THAT PRIOR CONSULTATIONS ON BILATERAL BASIS SHOULD BE HELD BETWEEN THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH INTEND TO CARRY OUT SUCH EXPERIMENTS AND OTHER COUNTRIES CONCERNED. THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAD AN OPPORTUNITY OF RECEIVING A MISSION OF EXPERTS DISCUSSIONS ON BILATERAL BASIS. CAREFUL STUDY AT A HIGH LEVEL HAS BEEN MADE ON THE RESULTS OF THESE DISCUSSIONS AMONG THE MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES CONCERNED. IN THIS STUDY, THE GOVERNMENT TOOK INTO CONSIDERATION THE PRESENT METEOROLOGY, ITS THEORY AND THE OBSERVATIONS OBTAINED FROM THE EXPERIMENTS ALREADY MADE ON HURRICANES. THE CONCLUSION HAS BEEN REACHED THAT THE EFFECTS OF SEEDINGS ON THE DIRECTION OF TYPHOONS ARE YET TO BE PROVED MORE DEFINITELY AND SCIENTIFICALLY AND THAT FURTHER BASIC STUDY SHOULD BE MADE.

"3. IF SUCH EXPERIMENTS ARE MADE ON TYPHOONS IN THE WEST PACIFIC, WHICH HAVE FAR MORE ENORMOUS ENERGY THAN THE HURRICANES IN THE ATLANTIC, A POSSIBILITY CANNOT BE EXCLUDED OF CAUSING OTHER TYPES OF DAMAGE WHICH OTHERWISE WOULD NOT BE CAUSED. THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN, WITH ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LIFE AND PROPERTY OF THE JAPANESE NATIONALS, CANNOT ACCEPT SUCH AN EVENTUALITY. MOREOVER, OPPOSITIONS, IN THE PUBLIC OPINIONS AGAINST THE PROPOSED TRANSFER OF EXPERIMENTS HAVE BEEN CONSISTENTLY STRONG.

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"4. FOR THESE REASONS STATED ABOVE, THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN CANNOT AGREE, AT THIS STAGE, TO THE PROPOSAL BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ON THE TRANSFER OF THE STORMFURY PROJECT TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN. IF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MAKE SUCH PROPOSAL, AT THE 31ST SESSION OF ESCAP BY RESSENTING A RESOLUTION, FOR EXAMPLE, THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN WOULD BE OBLIGED TO VOTE AGAINST IT. THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN HOPES, THEREFORE,

THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT PRESENT SUCH A RESOLUTION AT THE COMING COMMISSION SESSION OF ESCAP, TAKING THE JAPANESE POSITION INTO CONSIDERATION."

2. OBVIOUS PURPOSE OF DELIVERING RESPONSE AT THIS TIME IS TO SEEK TO AVOID INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION FAVORING PROJECT STORMFURY AT FEB. 25 MEETING OF ESCAP. LAST COMMUNICATION EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED ON THIS POSSIBILITY IS OCT. 23 MEMORANDUM TO FILES PREPARED BY CHAPIN OF OES/SCI. ON BASIS OF THIS MEMORANDUM, SCICOUNS INFORMED NODA THAT,, WHILE EMBASSY UNAWARE OF ANY FINAL DECISION ON INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION,WE BELIEVED THINKING WAS IN DIRECTION OF DEFERRAL OF INTRODUCTION FOR TIME BEING. WE SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT WHILE PROCEDURAL ISSUE MIGHT BE AVOIDED BY DECISION NOT TO INTRODUCE RESOLUTION, BASIC ISSUE OF UNDERTAKING EXPERIMENTS,, WHICH U.S. SCIENTISTS STRONGLY FAVORED, STILL REMAINED.

3. WHILE NEGATIVE JAPANESE REACTION IS HARDLY UNEXPECTED (SEE PARA. 5 REFTTEL), IT IS IN CONSIDERABLE STRONGER TERMS 5#-, 3.?- 6 #-\$ -.58:80-53\$. IN ADDITION, THERE HAS BEEN AN INTERESTING SHIFT IN BAUIS OF JAPANESE ARGUMENTS AWAY FROM POSSIBILITY THAT STORMFURY MIGHT, AMONG OTHER THINGS, ADVERSELY AFFECT BADLY NEEDED TYPHOON-ASSOCIATED RAINFALL TOWARD A LINE THAT DEPENDS EXCLUSIVELY ON POSSIBILITY OF INCREASED DAMAGE RESULTING FROM STORMFURY. WE ASSUME THIS SHIFT IN EMPHASIS REFLECTS GOJ CONCLUSION THAT EMPHASIS ON DAMAGES REPRESENTS STRONGER PLATFORM ON WHICH TO COUNTER OTHER COUNTRIES' INTEREST IN PROJECT THAN ESSENTIALLY ECONOMIC ARGUMENT THAT RAINFALL MIGHT BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED

4. IN BRIEF DISCUSSION OF GOJ RESPONSE, SCICOUNS OBSERVED THAT SOME EXPOSURE COUNTRIES OF REGION WHICH HAVE EQUAL OR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GREATER EXPOSURE THAN JAPAN TO TYPHOONS SAW MERIT IN PROJECT STORMFURY AS BEST HOPE FOR REDUCING FUTURE DAMAGE. THUS, CONFLICTING VIEWS AS TO WHETHER STORMFURY INCREASED OR DECREASED RISK OF TYPHOON DAMAGE WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT AND RECONCILED. EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT BEST TACTIC FOR ACCOMPLISHING TRANSFER OF STORMFURY WITHOUT RISKING MAJOR JAPANESE PROTEST IS BY ALLOWING OTHER COUNTRIES OF REGION TO SEEK POSITIVE CONSENSUS, INCLUDING JAPAN, ON BASIS OF POSITIVE BENEFITS OF PROJECT IN LEARNING TO REDUCE TYPHOON DAMAGES.

5. FONOFF REPS DID NOT EXPAND ON TALKING PAPER OTHER THAN TO POINT OUT THAT ESCAP MEETINGS ARE NORMALLY CONDUCTED IN THE ASIAN MANNER"; E.E., BY CONSENSUS, RATHER THAN BY VOTE. AND TO NOTE IN A LOW KEY THAT POSSIBLE DAMAGES COULD EVEN LEAD

TOCLAIMS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.
HODGSON UNQUOTE
KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, PAPERS, NATURAL DISASTERS, PROJECT STORMFURY, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE041149
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JPTREVITHICK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750065-0077
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750218/aaaaaprn.tel
Line Count: 172
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 TOKYO 13794, 75 OC23, 75 1974
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WEATHER - PROJECT STORMFURY
TAGS: TPHY, GQ, JA, US, XC, XE
To: NEW DELHI
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006